

Proc. 6929

Title 3—The President

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6929 of October 4, 1996

National Disability Employment Awareness Month, 1996

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

As we rapidly approach the 21st century, we are entering an age dominated by information and technology, the microchip and the global marketplace. We can't afford to waste the talents of a single person if we are to succeed in this exciting and challenging new world, and people with disabilities have a major role to play in helping us to achieve a dynamic, productive work force in a united community.

In the darkest days of World War II, the American people looked to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a person with a disability, for leadership and strength. Today, as college presidents and scientists, world-class athletes and physicians, our citizens with disabilities make their own invaluable contributions to our Nation's strength. From Main Street to Wall Street, they have performed successfully at every level of business and government, demonstrating in large ways and small that they can meet the same challenges as everyone else.

We can be proud of the great progress we have made in eliminating overt discrimination. Leaders of business and industry, veterans service organizations, and labor, as well as community leaders from all walks of life, have worked together to implement the Americans with Disabilities Act, which bans discrimination in recruitment, interviewing, hiring, and advancement.

Yet, 50 years after President Roosevelt's death, too many doors to employment remain closed to individuals with disabilities. We must work to eradicate more subtle forms of discrimination. We must make sure that our words of support for empowerment and inclusion continue to be reflected in our policies. It is up to all of us—employers, labor, educators, veterans, people with disabilities, and government—to stay the course until every barrier against individuals with disabilities comes down.

In recognition of the great potential of people with disabilities, and to encourage all Americans to work toward their full participation in our work force, the Congress, by Joint Resolution, approved August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 155), has designated October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 1996 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I call upon government officials, educators, labor leaders, employers, and the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that reaffirm our

determination to fulfill both the letter and the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 6930 of October 5, 1996

Fire Prevention Week, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation has a long tradition of unity in the face of adversity, and Americans have always stood together to fight one of our most terrifying and preventable problems—fire. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated public and private organizations working diligently to promote fire prevention and safety. Each October, Fire Prevention Week gives us an opportunity to remember family and friends who have been the victims of fire, and to redouble our efforts to prevent these tragedies.

Uncontrolled, fire can destroy homes, livelihoods, and lives. This year, in the wake of one of the most serious wildland fire seasons in history and a troubling series of arsons at houses of worship, we must join together and rededicate ourselves to fire prevention efforts. Whether working to stop church arsons or to avoid accidental fires in the home, we all have an important role to play.

The National Fire Protection Association has selected “Let’s Hear it for Fire Safety: Test Your Detectors!” as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, 1996, and joins with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to communicate this lifesaving message. This year’s theme focuses on a vital and simple element of home fire protection—smoke detectors.

Smoke detectors can provide early warning and reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by almost half. The theme of this year’s Fire Prevention Week reinforces the need for regular testing of home smoke detectors. The combination of a working smoke detector with a well-rehearsed escape plan can enable people to exit safely and quickly in the event of a fire.

Thanks to the commitment and support of our Nation’s fire and emergency services, we continue to make fire prevention and fire safety a top priority in America. Too often, these dedicated champions of fire safety pay the ultimate price in service to their communities. Last year, 102 firefighters died, and more than 94,500 were injured. On Sunday, October 13, 1996, we will pay our respects to these courageous men and women at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 6 through